

## ABSTRACT

On the basis of an area accessed by a just-previous read command and an area required by a present read command, the direction of the access, the interval between the areas, and the area size are detected, and the position and size of an area on a disk memory medium where prereading of data is to be carried out are determined using the detected values, whereby prereading of data can be efficiently carried out in response to continuous read commands which request data located in the backward direction, i.e., the direction in which address decreases, or data located separately at equal intervals.

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